

The BUZZ WORD

Volume

Issue 12

13

December

2022



Happiness is a TURKEY DRUMSTICK!

www.vvh.vermont.gov



VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

Fulfilling the Promise

The Vermont Veterans' Home was established in Bennington in 1884. It is governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor. The VVH offers a complete range of specialized care services for its residents. VVH goals focus on ensuring the dignity, independence, and the highest possible care and quality of life for each resident.

VVH is licensed to meet all levels of care for its residents and the VVH's departments and staff work together to provide those levels of care.

For any Further Questions, Please Contact:

Robyn Boland, Executive Assistant
robyn.boland@vermont.gov
802-447-6523



<http://vvh.vermont.gov>

Administration and Department Directors

Melissa Jackson, CEO/Administrator
447-6533
melissa.jackson@vermont.gov

Asa Morin, COO/Deputy Administrator
447-6544
asa.morin@vermont.gov

Rebecca Souza, Director of Nursing Services
447-6565
Rebecca.souza@vermont.gov

Steven McClafferty, Business Manager
447-2732
steven.mcclafferty@vermont.gov

Mary.Cicirello, Asst. Director of Nursing Services
447-6543
Mary.cicirello@vermont.gov

Paul Yerke, Nutritional Services Director
447-2815
paul.yerke@vermont.gov

Michele Burgess, Activities Director
447-6520
michele.burgess@vermont.gov

Christina Cosgrove, Behavioral Health Director
447-2792
christina.cosgrove@vermont.gov

Jon Endres, Environmental Services Director
447-6528
jon.endres@vermont.gov

Patti Parker, Housekeeping and Laundry Supervisor
447-2731
patricia.parker@vermont.gov

Cindy Gadway, Program Manager of Rehab
447-6548
cindy.gadway@partner.vt.gov

Melinda Crawl, Marketing/Admissions Coordinator
447-2755
melinda.crawl@vermont.gov

Jeannie Cody, Quality Assurance (QA) Nurse
447-2782
jean.cody@vermont.gov

DECEMBER



From the Administrator—Melissa Jackson



Happy Holidays,

I am very excited to announce that we will begin to hold group activities in the main dining area, Patriot Hall, starting December 1st. Veterans and Members from all neighborhoods will be invited to participate in the activities held in this room.

To help mitigate the risk of COVID-19, all Veterans/Members attending activities will be encouraged to wear a facial covering, practice social distancing and hand hygiene. Community organizations have been invited to offer their pre-COVID programs and will be provided with education on our infection control requirements prior to each event. Family members can attend these activities with their loved ones, space permitting; facial coverings are required.

Our annual tree lighting will take place Wednesday, December 7th at 5pm. The community is invited to attend. Veterans and Members will be invited to participate as well, but due to the colder temperatures, many prefer to stay inside. This event will be recorded and will be shared on our internal TV station.

Our annual Wreaths Across America ceremony will take place Saturday December 17th at noon at our cemetery. The VFW Christmas Party will take place Sunday, December 18th at 1pm in Patriot Hall.

It is that time of year that I provide reminders regarding holiday decorations and gifts. The following must be followed for holiday decorations, these are regulations, not VVH rules:

- Live trees, wreaths or garlands are not permitted.
- UL/LED lights only.
- Extension cords and multiple plug adapters are also not permitted.
- Items hung on the door cannot prevent the door from being closed.
- Please do not hang items from the ceiling.



When it comes to gifts, please know that federal guidelines prohibit our staff from accepting any individual gifts. Cards and food that can be shared with an entire unit are permitted. I ask that you do not put our staff in the uncomfortable position of having to turn down a gift.

I wish you a wonderful holiday season and a very happy new year.

Take Care,

Melissa

Melissa A. Jackson, MBA, FACHCA Chief Executive Officer

www.Vvh.vermont.gov

To Our Veterans' Home Families:

From the Deputy Administrator
Asa Morin



Happy December and Happy Holiday Season!

We are thrilled to usher in the New Year by opening group events for the Veterans and Members. Many of you who were admitted or had loved ones admitted in the past couple years have not seen the whole building or experienced the true sense of community that comes from these gatherings, and we hope that will soon change!

Also, with the New Year, we are rolling out a couple new features of our electronic medical record system. The first is notifications regarding appointments. If the Veteran or member consents or you are responsible for decision making for your loved one, you may now receive alerts regarding medical appointments via phone call, text or e-mail. In addition, we will be moving to a new alert system as well. You may receive a mailing requesting that you update your information for this system as we can only send the alert via one method (phone call, text or email). If you have questions about your enrollment in these alerts, feel free to reach out to me.

In 2023, we hope you will receive far more alerts about events and happy news rather than about cases of COVID-19.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

Asa

Asa Morin, MSW, LICSW, LNHA

Deputy Administrator/COO/CCO

(802) 447-6544

asa.morin@vermont.gov

HOW IS THE
CHRISTMAS ALPHABET
DIFFERENT FROM THE
ORDINARY ALPHABET?
THE CHRISTMAS
ALPHABET HAS
NO EL.

WHAT DO SHEEP
SAY TO EACH OTHER
AT CHRISTMAS TIME?
**MERRY
CHRISTMAS
TO EWE!**

WHAT DID THE GINGERBREAD
MAN PUT ON HIS BED?
**A COOKIE
SHEET!**

**Why did Santa go to
college for music?**
**So he could improve
his wrapping skills!**



Mrs. Barbara Petra
donated the stunning
paintings by her father.

Aniello V. Panetta, the
artist, was a WW II
Veteran in the 90th
bomb group of the 5th
Army Air Corp. He
was a photographer/
gunner stationed in the
South Pacific.



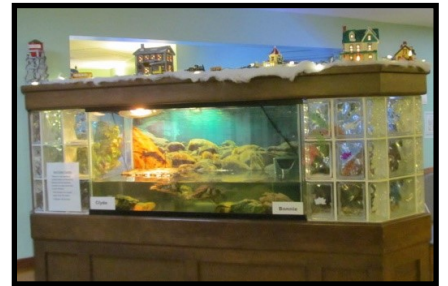
The paintings had been displayed on the walls of the West Wing of the Capitol in the office of Sara Makin, niece of Mrs. Petra, while she was an intern for Vice-President Pence.



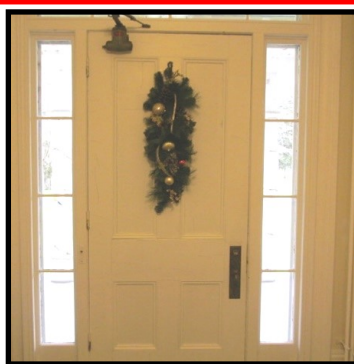
For the 15th year, the **Green Mountain Bulldawgs** have donated a Christmas tree for the front porch of the Home. This year's tree measures 11 1/2 feet in height.

Challenge coins were also donated to the Veterans' Home.

Pictured L-R: Asa, COO, Shaftsbury Barracks Troopers: Sgt. Seth Loomis, Sgt. Todd Wilkins; Don Keelan, Melissa, CEO, Trooper Jared Lacoste, Perry Young, LT. Steven Coote, Mike diMonda (Board of Trustees), Jim White, Bob Stockhoff, and Art O'Dea.



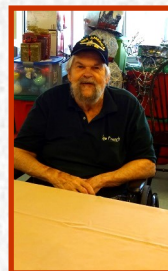
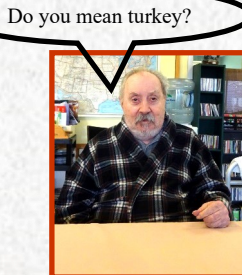
ACTIVITIES



IS JUST



GETTING STARTED



IT'S ALL

ABOUT

LOVE



Pownal Valley Seniors must have known that the Veterans, Members and Staff at the VVH loved cookies.

**Chocolate Chip!
Oatmeal Raisin!
Snickerdoodles!**

were just a small sampling of the more than 200 cookies that were graciously donated.



thank you



MAJ Shannon Blake, Warriors SOAR, brought over 29 cartons of pajamagram robes, loungewear and socks to be distributed at the VVH.

The clothing was donated by the Teddy Bear Company of Shelburne, VT.

COMING EVENTS

Fa la la la la ..la la la la



DECEMBER 7



5:00 pm
Tree Lighting

DECEMBER 17

NOON



Wreaths Across
America

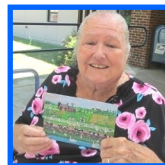
DECEMBER 18

VFW Christmas
Party

at
1:00 pm



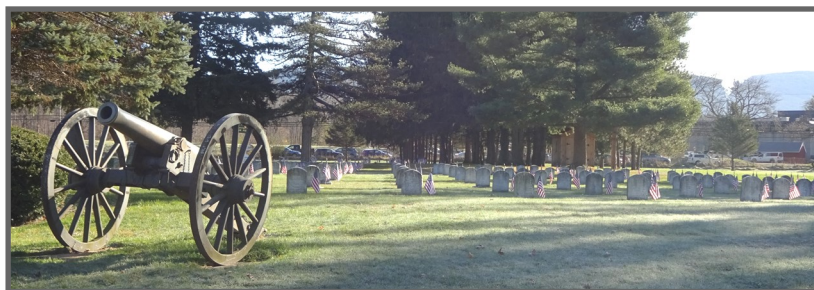
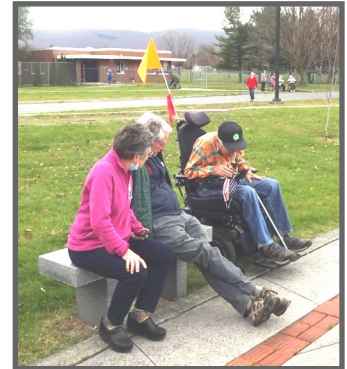
Cecelia's Corner



Dreams left to be answered

When my dreams haven't come true
I don't have to cry
Because some dreams need to
Be fulfilled slowly
To expect them all at once
Would make life uneventful
Dreams need to grow as
We need time to grow
What mattered today may not
Be right for your tomorrow
So try not to cry when your
Dreams go unanswered
Look at the ones that really matter
And remember a dream unanswered
Is another day's joy

C.A. Crawford
(A VVH employee)



To Preston Hayes and all those who helped place the American Flags on the graves, we **THANK YOU** for your dedication to the Veterans.



Thank You!

Students from Mr. Cernova's class at Bennington Elementary School brought Veterans Day cards for our residents.



Howdy Folks.

Time is still flying by. I am already in the second year as a cancer (Leukemia) survivor. It had been my plan to get well enough that I could return to the Veterans' Home as Chaplain. As so often happens, God had other plans. His plan is for me to continue infusions every 28 days for 5-day treatments, continue with physical therapy, blood draws every Monday and regular visits with the folks at the Cancer Center and White River Junction VA hospital. So, my return to the Veterans' Home was not in the cards.

The good news in all this is that the folks at the Veterans' Home brought Rick Setzer on as Chaplain. I have known Rick for many years. He is a devout Christian, a super preacher and a great individual. Congratulations to the Veterans' Home and to Rick on this action. A few years ago when I considered stepping down I had mentioned it to Rick. Well, on that thought the Lord and I were on the same sheet of music.

I do plan to come in and visit some of the residents I have gotten to know and may be able to participate in some of Rick's sessions in the communities. This will also be up to God whose plan I fully accept.

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2023. We all need to be thankful for life itself and all the blessings that come with it. Remember, God came down to earth as a Babe, as our Savior, and at the prime of his earthly life He gave it up; He took our sins to the Cross. He gave us the opportunity to repent and to seek salvation. His resurrection turned the world upside down. Most of all, He made it possible for us to live even after death; to live with Him in His Father's House. God is good.

Remember our troops in your prayers and enjoy this holiday season.

God bless,

Chaplain Ken

**Chaplain's
Corner**



Melissa, VVH CEO, accepts posters and cards that were personally delivered to our Veterans by the American Legion Auxiliary Post 13. A very generous donation was also given to the Activities Bingo fund.

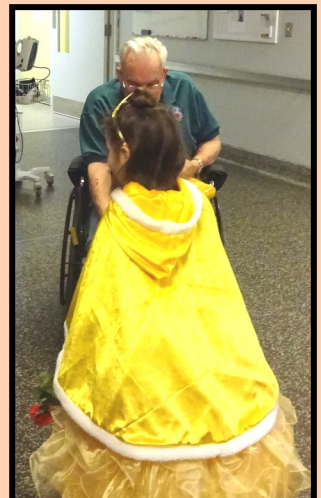
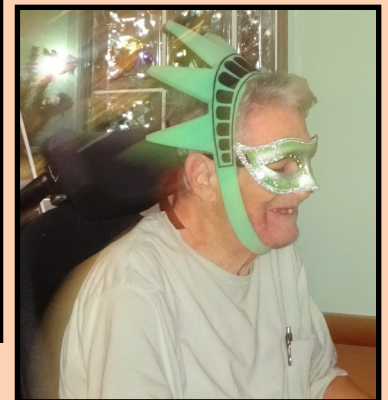
t h a n k y o u



The American Legion Auxiliary Post 69 brought a variety of gifts from the Wish List (water bottles, activity books, wallets (to name a few). Pictured above (L-R) Asa, COO, Melissa West, Melissa, CEO, Kelly Licata, Jean McDermott and Danielle Cumm.

T H A N K Y O U

Halloween Memories 2022



On behalf of the Veterans
and Members, we
sincerely thank the
following for their generous
donations:



VFW Auxiliary #1332
VFW Auxiliary Post 9563
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 13
American Legion Auxiliary Post 69
American Legion Ballard Hobart Post #36
American Legion Post #49
Brattleboro Lodge of Elks #1499
Mrs. Barbara Petra
Maj. Shannon Blake, Warriors S.O.A.R
Marilyn Ficalora, Friends & Church Group
Benn. County Retired Teachers Assn.
Champlain Valley Christian School
Vergennes Community Forum
Chippen Fellow Am. Leg. Aux. Unit 50
Swanton VFW Auxiliary Post 778
Phyllis & Rhonda Roberts
Steve Leach
Pownal Valley Seniors
Molly Stark Elementary School
Woodford Elementary School
Mt. Anthony Union Middle School
c/o Mrs. Stevens' Class
Pownal Elementary c/o Clair Derosia
Bennington ACES After School Program
Michael Cernova's Class at Bennington Elem.
Franklin Elementary School
Preschool/Pre-K Benson Village School
c/o Mrs. Dailey
4th, 5th & 6th Grades Benson Village School
c/o Mrs. Schulyer
School of Sacred Heart/St. Francis deSales
Outreach Class - c/o Mrs. Dailey
Priscilla Lanpher
Bruce Prevost
Green Mountain Bulldawgs
Readsboro Community Library
c/o Cindy Candiloro

Rosalie Boland
Edward Moutray
Darlene & Timothy Cumm
Sandra Coyle
Brattleboro Chapter of the DAR
Anonymous Donor
Albert Feldman
Susan DiLorenzo
Jack Frielingdorf
Rosemary Lindsey
Joy Kitchell

In Memory of Ethel Bourn

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 13

In Memory of Ira Kaufman

Christopher Donnelly
Richard & Nancy Warner
Martin & Barbara Cohen
Jerry & Barbara Kaplan
Sandi & Harvey Schneider
Harold & Janet Moskowitz

In Memory of Marie Legacy

Wever Petroleum. Inc.

VVH Staff Recognition Years of Service

ACTIVITIES

Kelly Brown — 33 years

ADMINISTRATION

Melinda Crowl — 21 years

NURSING

Eunice Rice — 13 years
Joan Gilpin — 2 years



THE BUZZ WORD

Three ways for you to receive the Vermont Veterans' Home monthly newsletter:

- ♦ Vermont Veterans' Home website:
www.vvh.vermont.gov
Click on About Our Home
Click on Newsletters
- ♦ Email
- ♦ Mailing List (postal)

To be added to our lists please contact:

The Buzz Word
Vermont Veterans' Home
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201

Robyn Boland
(802) 447-6523
Email: Robyn.Boland@vermont.gov

VVH WISH LIST

"Music and Memory" Players

A monetary donation of \$30.00 provides a customized music player to a Veteran or Member.

Bingo Prizes
Costume Jewelry
Crafts
Two pocket front
wheelchair/walker bags
Neck Pillows

Fidget Blankets



Your donations are
gratefully accepted.

THANK YOU

Please make the check for monetary donations to:

**Vermont Veterans' Home
Business Office
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201**

Please include the purpose in the "memo".

Due to COVID-19, we are still not able to accept:
books, CDs, puzzles or used clothing.

**PLEASE NOTE: WE WILL NO LONGER ACCEPT
DVDs due to modern technology of TV's and
streaming availability.**

We will keep you posted when changes are made.
Thank you for your patience and understanding.

DONATION INFORMATION

Your donations are gratefully accepted. Please make check out to Vermont Veterans' Home:

**Vermont Veterans' Home
Business Office
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201**

Please indicate in the memo area of the check to which fund(s) you are donating:

Members Assistance:

Directly to Veterans/Members
Furniture, Haircuts, Clothing
Other personal needs

Namaste Program Fund:

Oils for relaxation
Supplies, Equipment

Unrestricted Fund:

Facility equipment
Large purchase

Activities Fund:

Entertainment

Music & Memory Fund:

Memory Music Player

Veteran's Mobility Trail

Monetary donations toward
a paved walkway around
the perimeter of the VVH



**If you have scheduled
a medical appointment,
please let our friendly
Scheduler know.**

Contact:
TAMMY SHIELDS
802.447.6542

Tammy.shields@vermont.gov

FRIENDLY REMINDER FROM THE LAUNDRY DEPARTMENT

If you are bringing new clothing to your loved one as holiday gifts, please give the item(s) to Nursing in order to **have them labeled** with the Veteran's or Member's name.

This will assist Laundry in returning the
garments to the proper owner.

Thank you

